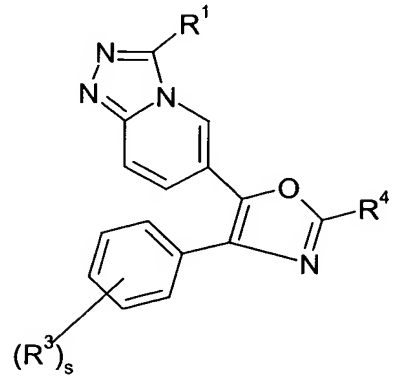
CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



I

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -C≡N, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(R^2)_2$-N-; wherein each of the aforesaid $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic substituents may optionally be independently substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-(C=O)-, $-NO_2$, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl-}]_2$N-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, $(\text{phenyl-})_2$N-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl-}]_2$N-(C=O)-O-, $(\text{phenyl-})_2$N-(C=O)-O-; wherein when said R^2 phenyl contains two adjacent substituents, such substituents may optionally be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; wherein each of said moieties containing a phenyl alternative may optionally be substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy;

each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^2 $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl,

$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two R^2 $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl groups may be taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a five to six membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two adjacent R^3 substituents may be optionally taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

s is an integer from zero to five;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro or R^5-B-$(CH_2)_n$-;

n is an integer from zero to six;

each B is independently a bond, $-(CHR^6)$-, –O-, -S-, -(SO_2)-, -(C=O)-, -O-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-O-, -(C=O)-NR^6-, -$(R^6$-N)-, -$(R^6$-N)-SO_2-, -$(R^6$-N)-(C=O)-, -SO_2-(NR^6)-, -$(R^6$-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-, -(O)-(C=O)-(NR^6)- or -$(R^6$-N)-(C=O)-O-;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $-CF_3$, -C≡N, R^9-$(R^8CH)_m$-, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^5 phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-,

$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two adjacent R^5 substituents of said phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl may optionally be taken together with the carbon or heteroatom to which they are attached to form a five or six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

m is an integer from one to six;

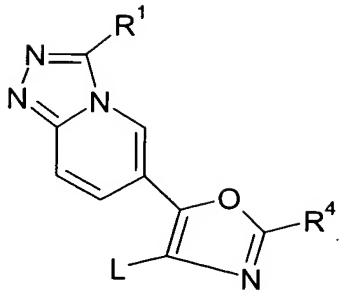
R^6 is hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2- or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R^7 is hydrogen or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

each R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

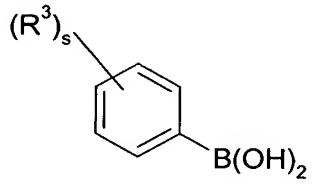
R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, phenyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-SO_2-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-;

or an acceptable salt thereof; comprising reacting a compound of the formula



II

wherein L is a leaving group and R^1 and R^4 are as defined above, with a compound of the formula

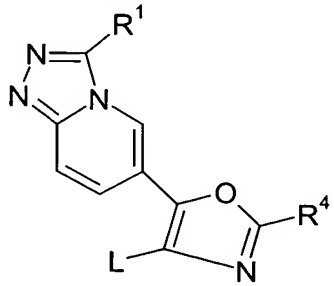


IIII

wherein R^3 and s are as defined above and a transition metal catalyst.

2. A process according to claim 1, where the reaction is performed in the presence of toluene.

3. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



II

wherein L is halo and R^1 and R^4 are as defined above;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -C≡N, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(R^1)_2$-N-; wherein each of the aforesaid $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic substituents may optionally be independently substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-(C=O)-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-,

phenyl-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-; wherein when said R^1 phenyl contains two adjacent substituents, such substituents may optionally be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; wherein each of said moieties containing a phenyl alternative may optionally be substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl and perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy;

each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^1 (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two R^2 (C_1-C_6)alkyl groups may be taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a five to six membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro or R^5-B-(CH_2)$_n$-;

n is an integer from zero to six;

each B is independently a bond, –(CHR^6)-, –O-, -S-, -(SO_2)-, -(C=O)-, -O-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-O-, -(C=O)-NR^6-, -(R^6-N)-, -(R^6-N)-SO_2-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-, -SO_2-(NR^6)-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-, -(O)-(C=O)-(NR^6)- or -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-O-;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -CF_3, -C≡N, R^9-(R^8CH)$_m$-, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^5 phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two adjacent R^5 substituents of said phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl may optionally be taken together with the carbon or heteroatom to which they are attached to form a five or six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

m is an integer from one to six;

R^6 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2- or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

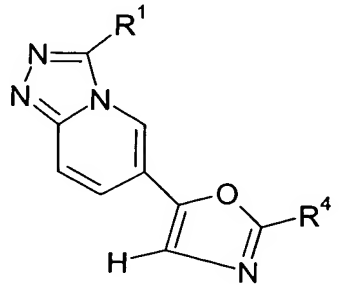
R^7 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

each R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy and (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, phenyl-SO_2-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-SO_2-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-,

$H_2N(C=O)$-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-;

by reaction of a compound of the formula



IV

wherein R^1 and R^4 are as defined above; with a halogenating reagent.

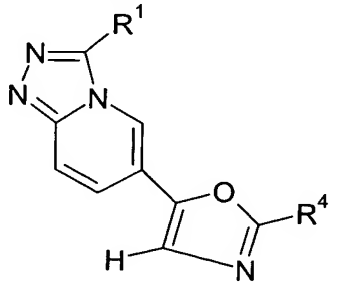
4. A process according to claim 2, wherein reaction is performed in the presence of a strong base.

5. A process according to claim 3, wherein said strong base is lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide or lithium diisopropylamide.

6. A process according to claim 4, additionally comprising a polar aprotic solvent.

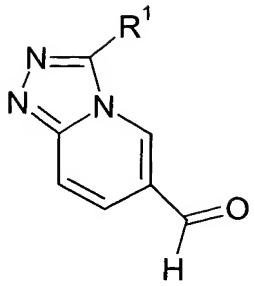
7. A process according to claim 5, wherein said polar aprotic solvent is N,N-dimethylformamide.

8. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



IV

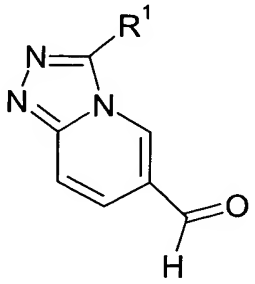
wherein R^4 is hydrogen and R^1 is as defined above in claim 1; comprising reacting a compound of the formula



V

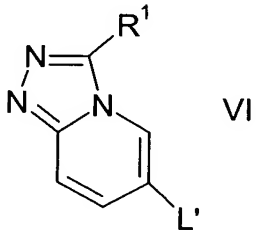
wherein R^1 is as defined above; with tosylmethyl isocyanide and a base.

9. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



V

wherein R^1 is as defined above in claim 2; by reaction of a compound of the formula



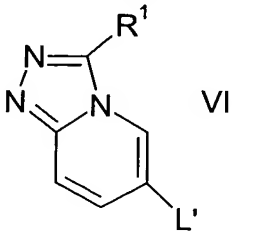
VI

wherein L' is bromo or iodo and R^1 is as defined above; with an $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl magnesium halide or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl lithium, followed by reaction with a disubstituted formamide reagent;

with the proviso that R^1 is other than isopropyl.

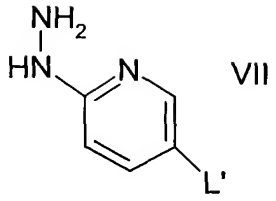
10. A process according to claim 9, additionally comprising citric acid or potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

11. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



VI

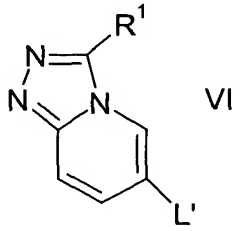
wherein L' is halo; and R^1 is isopropyl, comprising reacting a compound of the formula



VII

wherein L' is halo; with isobutyryl chloride.

12. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



VI

wherein L' is halo;

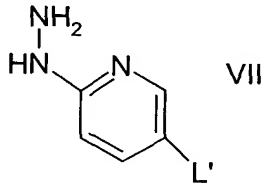
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -C≡N, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(R^1)_2$-N-; wherein each of the aforesaid $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic substituents may optionally be independently substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $-NO_2$, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-$]_2$N-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-$)_2$N-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-$]_2$N-(C=O)-O-, (phenyl-$)_2$N-(C=O)-O-; wherein when said R^1 phenyl contains two adjacent substituents, such substituents may optionally be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; wherein each of said moieties containing a phenyl alternative may optionally be substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl and perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy;

and each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^1 $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl

substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})\text{-N}]$-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two R^2 $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl groups may be taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a five to six membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

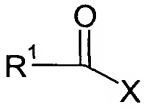
with the proviso that R^1 is other than isopropyl;

comprising reacting a compound of the formula

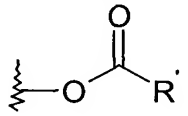


VII

wherein L' is halo; with a reagent of the formula



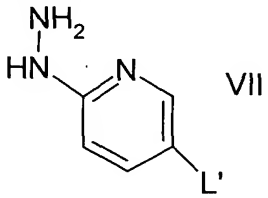
wherein X is halo, tosyl, mesyl or a group of the formula



wherein R' is R^1, t-butyl, or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-;

and R^1 is other than isopropyl.

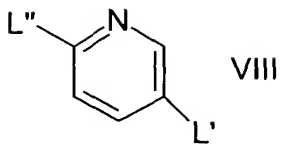
13. A process for preparing a compound of the formula



VII

wherein L' is halo;

comprising reacting a compound of the formula



VIII

wherein L' is halo and L" is halo; with a hydrazine , PEG-300, water and 2-butanonol.

14. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl or (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic.

15. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, optionally substituted with one to four groups independently selected from halo, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, -CN, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, optionally substituted phenyl-(C=O)-, optionally substituted phenyl-(C=O)-O-, optionally substituted phenoxy, optionally substituted phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, optionally substituted phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, optionally substituted phenyl-(C=O)-NH- and optionally substituted phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-.

16. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is (C_1-C_4)alkyl.

17. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is isopropyl.

18. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted (C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl.

19. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl.

20. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl, wherein said substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, formyl, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-O-,

phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-; wherein each of said moieties containing a phenyl alternative may optionally be substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl and perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy.

21. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl wherein said substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O- and [(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]$_2$N-(C=O)-O-.

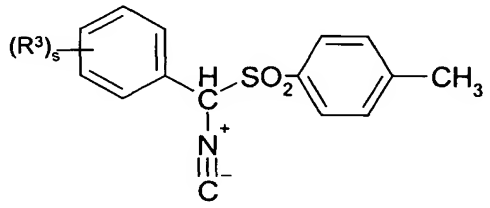
22. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl containing two adjacent substituents which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

23. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is (R^2)$_2$-N-, wherein each R^1 is independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^2, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two R^2 (C_1-C_6)alkyl groups may be taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a five to six membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring.

24. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is $(R^2)_2$-N- and wherein each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, phenyl and $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic.

25. A process according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

26. A process for preparing a compound of the formula

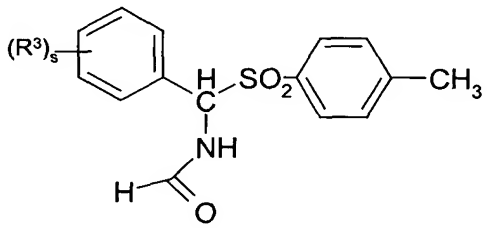


XVII

wherein each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two adjacent R^3 substituents may be optionally taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

s is an integer from zero to five;

or an acceptable salt thereof; comprising reacting a compound of the formula



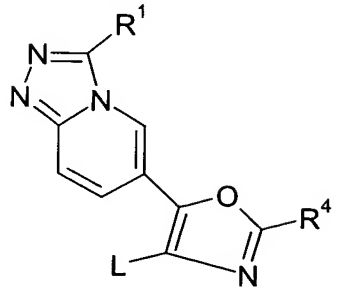
XVIII

wherein R^3 and s are as defined above, in the presence of $POCl_3$, 2,6-lutidine and a solvent.

27. A process according to claim 26, wherein said solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

28. A process according to claim 27, further comprising working up the reaction in the presence of citric acid.

29. A compound of the formula



II

wherein L is bromo or chloro;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -C≡N, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and $(R^2)_2$-N-; wherein each of the aforesaid (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl and (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic substituents may optionally be independently substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic, formyl, -CN, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-(C=O)-, $-NO_2$, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl]_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-]_2$N-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $(phenyl-)_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, $(phenyl-)_2$N-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-$[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, $[(C_1-_6)alkyl-_2N$-C=O)--phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, $(phenyl-)_2$N-(C=O)-O-; wherein when said R^1 phenyl contains two adjacent substituents, such substituents may optionally be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a five to six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; wherein each of said moieties containing a phenyl alternative may optionally be substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl and perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy;

each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclic and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid

R^1 $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two R^2 $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl groups may be taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a five to six membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo or R^5-B-$(CH_2)_n$-;

n is an integer from zero to six;

each B is independently a bond, –(CHR^6)-, –O-, -S-, -(SO_2)-, -(C=O)-, -O-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-O-, -(C=O)-NR^6-, -(R^6-N)-, -(R^6-N)-SO_2-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-, -SO_2-(NR^6)-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-, -(O)-(C=O)-(NR^6)- or -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-O-;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $-CF_3$, -C≡N, R^9-$(R^8CH)_m$-, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid R^5 phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl substituents may optionally be substituted by one to four moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-,

$(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-; wherein two adjacent R^5 substituents of said phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl may optionally be taken together with the carbon or heteroatom to which they are attached to form a five or six membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

m is an integer from one to six;

R^6 is hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2- or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

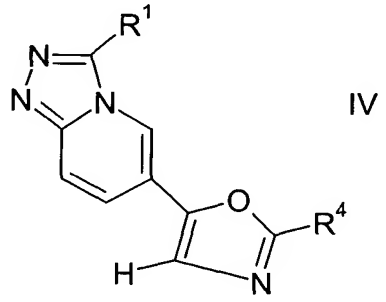
R^7 is hydrogen or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

each R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, phenyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-SO_2-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-;

or a salt thereof.

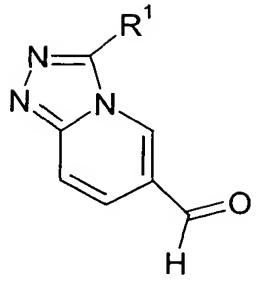
30. A compound of the formula



IV

wherein R^1 and R^4 are as defined above in claim 21; or a salt thereof.

31. A compound of the formula



V

wherein R^1 is as defined above; or a salt thereof, wherein said compound is other than 3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo(4,3-a)-6-pyridinecarboxaldehyde.

32. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl.

33. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^1 is isopropyl.

34. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

35. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is $R^5\text{-}B\text{-}(CH_2)_n$- and n is zero.

36. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is $R^5\text{-}B\text{-}(CH_2)_n$- and n is an integer from one to five.

37. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is $R^5\text{-}B\text{-}(CH_2)_n$-; n is zero; B is a bond and R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $-CF_3$, -C≡N, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic or $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl; wherein each of the aforesaid $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl may optionally be substituted by one to three moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})$-N]-, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-N-(C=O)- and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-.

38. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is $R^5\text{-}B\text{-}(CH_2)_n$-; n is zero; B is -(C=O)-NR^6-, -(R^6-N)-, -(R^6-N)-SO_2-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-, >C=O, -O-(C=O)-, -SO_2-(NR^6)-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-; and

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl or phenyl; wherein the aforesaid phenyl and $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl may optionally be substituted by one to three moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, $-NO_2$, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[N$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl]-, -CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-,

$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $H_2N(C=O)$- $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)- and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-.

39. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is R^5-B-$(CH_2)_n$-; n is zero; B is -(C=O)-NR^6-, -(R^6-N)-, >C=O, -O-(C=O)-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)- or -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-; R^9 is R^9-($R^8CH)_m$-; m is 1-6; R^6 is hydrogen or methyl; R^8 is hydrogen or methyl; and R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, phenyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-[N-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl]-, phenyl-SO_2-[N-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl]-, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[N(C_1-$C_6)$alkyl]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[N-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $H_2N(C=O)$-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[N-$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-.

40. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is R^5-B-$(CH_2)_n$-; n is zero; B is -(R^6-N)-; R^5 is hydrogen or R^9-($R^8CH)_m$-; m is 1-6; R^6 is hydrogen or methyl; R^8 is hydrogen or methyl; and R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$amino, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic and $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl.

41. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R^4 is R^5-B-$(CH_2)_n$-; n is one to four; B is -(C=O)-NR^6-, -(R^6-N)-, -(R^6-N)-(C=O)- or -(R^6-N)-(C=O)-(NR^7)-; R^5 is R^9-($R^8CH)_m$-; m is 1-6; R^6 is hydrogen or methyl; R^8 is hydrogen or methyl; and R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, phenyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-[N-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl]-, phenyl-SO_2-[N-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl]-, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)alkyl]_2$-amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-,

$(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O- and phenyl-(C=O)-O-.

42. A compound according claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to four and each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)- $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$[((C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-.

43. A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to four and each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl and perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl.

44. A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to four and zero, one or two of R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, -CN, and H_2N(C=O)-.

45. A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to three and each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, -NO_2, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl$]_2$-amino, -CN, and H_2N(C=O)-.

46. A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to two and each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy and -CN.

47. A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is an integer from zero to three and each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro and methyl.

48. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

3-Isopropyl-6-[4-bromo-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; and

3-Isopropyl-6-[oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; or

an acceptable salt thereof.